

## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF HAWAII

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release: March 26, 2005

## STATE HOUSING AGENCY REPAIRS PUBLIC HOUSING FACILITIES

HONOLULU – The Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH) has targeted 240 vacant public housing units for repairs statewide.

The repairs undertaken today at Kalihi Valley Homes and Kuhio Park Terrace included plumbing, electrical and overall interior work including doors, tile, painting and more.

In December, HCDCH began an aggressive effort to repair and renovate aging family and senior housing projects. In the first 12 weeks, 50 units were repaired and made available to tenants. Many of the facilities were built in the 1960s and 1970s and the average public housing development is 30 years old.

"By making such an aggressive effort to renovate these vacant units we will be able to provide housing for more of Hawaii's residents," said Stephanie Aveiro, executive director of HCDCH. "While we are moving forward to develop more affordable housing, we also have a responsibility to properly maintain the existing housing inventory."

On October 1, 2004, HCDCH and HUD entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to improve HCDCH's performance by September 30, 2005. Part of the agreement is to reduce the average unit vacancy preparation time by 50 percent, making it tenant ready sooner and reducing the amount of vacant units. Currently, the average preparation time is 210 days. HCDCH's goal is to reduce the preparation time to 105 days.

"The Lingle-Aiona Administration's goal is to make available more safe and decent affordable housing in our state," said Aveiro.

There are 5,383 federal public housing units in Hawaii of which approximately 700 are vacant and in need of repair. HCDCH plans for the repairs to be done on a continual basis.

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